

## Millsboro Pond

101 acres  
Millsboro

### FISH

Surveys of Millsboro Pond revealed such low fish numbers that some follow-up work was required to confirm the results and diagnose what was troubling the pond's fish habitat. Recommendations were made to stock largemouth bass, bluegill, and golden shiners to supplement the population and to post signs requesting that adult bass and bluegill be released to allow maximum spawning. Signs were posted at the access areas. About 700



largemouth bass fingerlings (3 inches), 650 adult bluegill (5 inch), and 23 pounds of adult golden shiners were stocked in 2004. The shiners were stocked to provide additional forage. However, sampling in 2011 did not indicate much improvement in the bass

population. Although weights were good and occasional fish over 18 inches were present, overall numbers of bass remain very low. Another 1,100 largemouth bass (average length 3 inches) were stocked in August 2011 to supplement natural reproduction.

Bluegill numbers have improved to moderate levels. Average weights are excellent and fish up to nine inches are available. Redear sunfish have been collected in the pond since 2005 and appear to have become established. Also known as shellcrackers because of their habit of feeding on snails and mussels, redears remain moderately abundant and range from three to ten inches in length. This is a non-native species that may have been stocked by unknown persons presumably for another sportfish species. It has not been determined if there will be a negative impact on the bluegill and black crappie populations in Delaware's small ponds from this introduction. **(The Division of Fish & Wildlife advises anglers not stock these fish or any other species in the public ponds due to concerns about disease transport and competition between species. It is illegal to stock fish into non-tidal public waters of the State without written permission from the Director of Fish & Wildlife.)**

Yellow perch remain fairly abundant with an occasional trophy. Chain pickerel and pumpkinseed sunfish were less common. Carp have declined in abundance but can provide a different type of sport fishing experience. American eel, creek chubsucker, and both brown and yellow bullhead were also noted.



## VEGETATION

Hydrilla has dominated the plant community in recent years. Spraying of an aquatic herbicide has been conducted on an annual basis to provide some control. This has allowed some native species such as coontail, muskgrass and bladderwort to maintain patchy distribution but the hydrilla remains most abundant. Spatterdock beds and abundant woody structure provide habitat for holding fish especially during the summer months. In 2010, an aquatic weed harvester removed some of the floating algal mats from the pond.

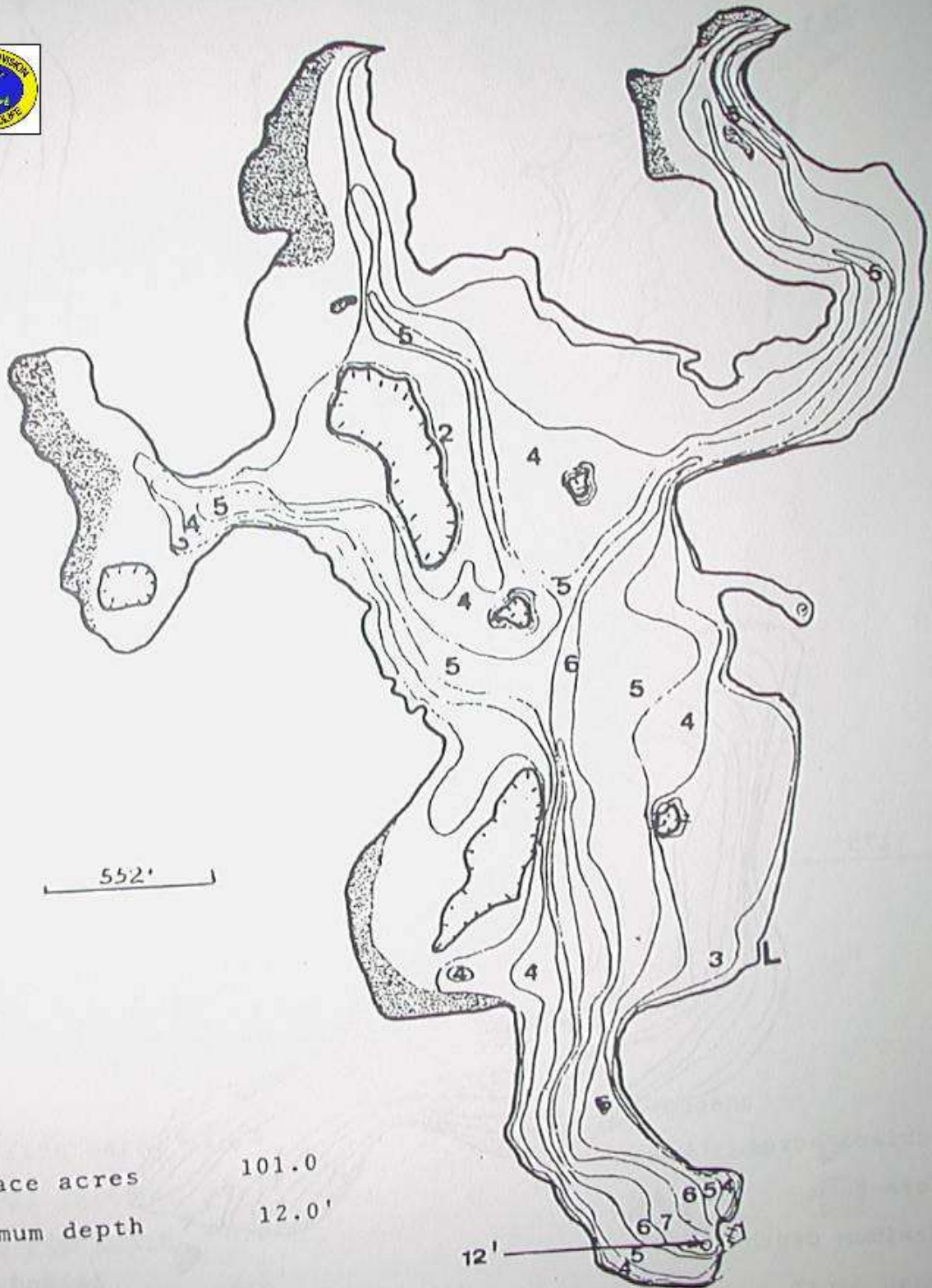
Resident Canada geese add to the nutrient load within the pond so shoreline residents and visitors have been asked not to feed them by the Town.

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

This pond is owned by the Town of Millsboro with access provided by the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Special Town regulations including a maximum outboard rating of 5 hp are posted adjacent to the ramp. The abundant submerged stumps and deadfalls can make navigation difficult in much of the pond.

It also should be noted that the parking area is very small, with capacity for no more than two or three boat trailers.

# MILLSBORO POND



Surface acres

101.0

Maximum depth

12.0'